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on Engineers/Criticism of Soviet Machine Tool  
Production Figures and Estimates of Soviet  
Machine Tool Production

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Details of Soviet Ukraine Machine Tool Factories

1. Gidroprivod - Kharkov, a small plant, began production about 1939 and is located beside the Kharkov railroad station. The plant consisted of one building which was formerly a warehouse or small factory. Constructed to insure production of hydraulic machine parts and hydraulic pumps of uniform quality, the plant supplied its production to the Molotov Boring and Grinding Machine Factory in Kharkov, and later to other machine tool factories after production increased. For a time, the date which I do not recall, the plant produced mining tools. About 300-500 workers were employed in the plant. I would estimate the plant's production to be 50-60 small pumps and 50-60 sets of hydraulic parts for machine tools per month.
2. The director of this plant from its conception was /fnu/ Kostanko, former chief of the instruments shop at Molotov. He was an excellent instruments engineer. A Communist, I suspect he may have been a Party member solely to advance his professional career. The chief engineer was /fnu/ Lionow, [redacted] He was not a Communist. /See para 13(a)/.
3. I think the Small Aggregates Machine Tool Plant - Kharkov, was located in the northern section of the city. Its proper name was the Schewcmenko Machine Repair Factory and was an old factory, very small, [redacted] the date it went into operation or the number of workers it employed. [redacted] it could repair or recondition 10-12 machines per month. Lionow was employed in this factory before he came to Molotov, possibly in the Technical Bureau.

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4. [redacted] the proper name of Kaments Podolsky machine tool factory or what types of machine tools it produced. [redacted] that it was a small plant and went into operation about 1939 or 1940. The Soviet government was not anxious to build this plant because of its proximity to the Polish border. 50X1
5. The Voroshilovgrad Grinding Machine Factory - Voroshilovgrad, was not part of the Voroshilovgrad Munitions Plant, although it may have been part of the Voroshilovgrad Locomotive Factory. It began operations about 1936 and manufactured small grinding machines. [redacted] one or two grinding machines built in this factory [redacted] Model #312 grinding machine. [redacted] The factory also produced hydraulic machine tool parts and employed 1000-1200 workers. Monthly production was about 50 machines. The chief engineer at Molotov (1940-1942), Chariton Rabko, was a former chief of the construction bureau in this factory. He is now /1953/ about 53 and was not a Communist [redacted] him. 50X1 50X1 50X1 50X1
6. The Kommunar Machine Tool Factory - Lubny, was completed about 1938. I think it was a small factory, and unfortunately I do not remember any details of it.
7. The Kramatorsk Heavy Machine Factory - Kramatorsk, produced only heavy machine tools and started production about 1940. This was possibly the biggest machine tool factory in the Ukraine and probably one of the biggest in the USSR.
8. In 1937-38, the Gorki, Revolving Machine Tool Factory - Kirov, went into operation, producing multiple lathes. The plant employed 2-3 thousand workers, and produced 50-70 machines per month.
9. I cannot recall when the Lenin Boring Machine Factory - Odessa, was built. I remember that it consisted of two or three buildings and employed about 2 thousand workers. The plant produced 70-100 boring machines per month and also manufactured heavy castings used in the radial boring machines produced at Molotov.
10. All of the above factories, with the possible exception of Voroshilovgrad, were under authority of the Ministry of Machine Tools. The eight plants are all the machine tool factories that I am able to recall in the Soviet Ukraine. I can recall a factory named Kirov in Odessa, but I do not believe that it produced machine tools.

#### Details of other Soviet Machine Tool Factories

11. I know there was a machine tool factory in Kirovgrad, but I am unable to recall anything about it. There was a factory named Kirov in Leningrad which produced machine tools, possibly part of the Locomotive Factory. A large machine tool factory in Moscow produced lathes, possibly 150 machines per month. 50X1

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(c) [fnu] Machenin, age 56 or 57 in 1953, chief engineer of the Kharkov Locomotive Works - "Komintern" after 1938. He was possibly a graduate of a Soviet military academy since he was a military engineer. He was a Communist and a very good engineer. He succeeded Professor Cwetkow, a former professor at Kharkov Diesel Institute, and an outstanding Diesel engineer who was not a Communist.

Determination of Production at Molotov Boring and Grinding Machine Factory

14. Annual production at Molotov was determined by sizes of machines rather than number of machines since the larger machines required more handwork in construction than the smaller machines. Bases and tables of large grinding machines had to be finished by hand. [redacted] 50% more work could be done by machines on a Model 3A12 than on a larger machine, like Model 3A15. [redacted]

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Production Figures Published by Soviet Press

15. When statements appeared in the Soviet press relative to increased production of a particular plant over the previous year, the percentage always referred to money values rather than unit increase. However, quotas assigned to a factory by the controlling ministry were always specified in units rather than money value. The ministry is solely interested in unit production. Consequently, in my opinion, published statistics are practically always incorrect. The Soviets constantly exaggerate production figures. For example, Molotov would be assigned a monthly production quota of 100 machines. The director

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would [redacted] ask how many machines were completed. When [redacted] only 90 machines had been completed, due to the failure of the machine shop to supply components, it was the director's practice to add the number of machines being assembled to fill out the monthly quota. Actually, these machines should have been included in the production figures for the following month. The same situation would occur the following month and official statistics would show that 200 machines were completed when actually the correct figure was 180 units. I believe that this intentional audit adjustment could probably have occurred again at the ministerial level and perhaps again at another level before the statistics were finally published. Thus, the published statistics could be 2%-30% higher than the actual production. Consequently, exaggerated Soviet production figures result from attempts of justification by manufacturers and inspectors, as well as an attempt to show the effectiveness of the Soviet system for propaganda purposes.

16. In 1937, one possible, although perhaps flimsy, explanation of the discrepancy of Soviet machine tool production figures (36,000 in one official Soviet publication and 48,400 in another) could have been caused by a person in the Statistical Bureau, not entirely familiar with machine tools, who included production figures of other machine categories which were not legitimate machine tools. However, deliberate falsification of figures cannot be ignored. The figure of 36,000 units, based on production of 60-70 machines per month at Molotov, is at least 20% too high, in my opinion, and might possibly run as high as 30% of error.
17. Official statistics of Soviet machine tool production in 1939 (according to official statistics, 55,000 units) probably included the production of all machine tools, including those produced by other ministries or by industrial cooperatives. Even if this supposition is correct, I believe that the figure is at least 20% too high.
18. I do not think there was a decline in Soviet machine tool production in 1940 [US estimates of Soviet tool production for 1940 are 45-49 thousand units.] Many of the Soviet machine tool factories were built in the middle and late 1930's. There is a one or two year period after the completion of a Soviet factory when production is extremely low. Five or six years are required for a Soviet factory to reach normal production levels. We did not have a foundry at Molotov until 1938. In 1940, most of these factories were beginning to come into full production and there would be no reasonable explanation, therefore, for a drop in production. The figures are more reasonable than the earlier official Soviet figures, but are still too high. My estimate of production for 1940 would be 36-40 thousand units. [redacted] this "drop in production" is proof of Soviet use of tilted statistics.

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